

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
29 September 2005 (29.09.2005)

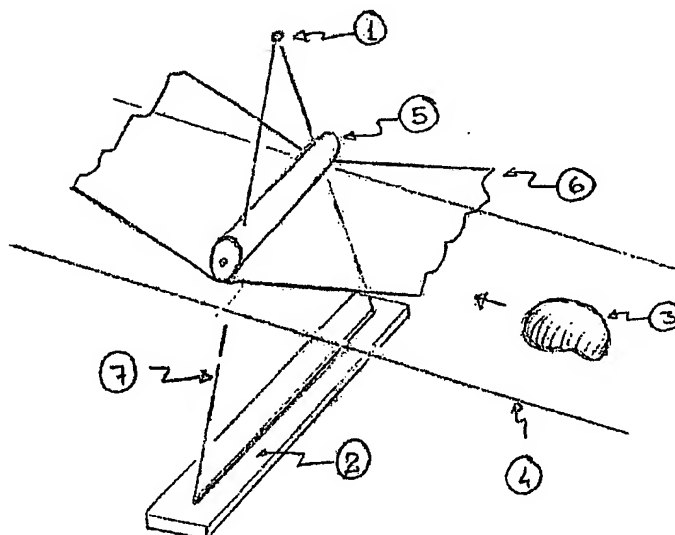
PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/090964 A1**

- (51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G01N 33/12**, 23/12 (74) Agent: A & P ARNASON; Efstalciti 3, IS-105 Reykjavik (IS).
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/IS2005/000007 (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (22) International Filing Date: 10 March 2005 (10.03.2005)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 7191 19 March 2004 (19.03.2004) IS
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): MAREL HF. [IS/IS]; Austurhrauni 9, IS-210 Gardabaer (IS).
- (72) Inventors; and (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): ERLINGSSON, Vidar [IS/IS]; Lynghaed 1, IS-210 Gardabaer (IS). EIRIKSSON, Hrafnkell [IS/IS]; Laekjasmara 70, IS-200 Kopavogur (IS). ANDERSEN, Kristinn [IS/IS]; Austurgotu 42, IS-210 Hafnarfjörður (IS).
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR INSPECTING FOOD ITEMS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for the inspection of food items, in particular inspection for bones or bone fragments in boneless or de-boned meat or fish products, is provided. The apparatus comprises means for forming the food items into a shape of substantially uniform thickness prior to and/or during image analysis using X-ray emission and detection means. By forming the food items to substantially uniform thickness, image analysis for the detection of bones and bone fragments is enhanced due to the removal of background variations. A method for inspection of food items and the use of an X-ray apparatus in such applications is also provided.

WO 2005/090964 A1



**Declaration under Rule 4.17:**

— of inventorship (Rule 4.17(iv)) for US only

**Published:**

— with international search report

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*